

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus for electrically connecting electrodes of a device under test and conductive portions formed in a base plate, comprising:

a plurality of plate-like probes each for electrically connecting said one of the electrodes and said one of the conductive portions, having a tip to be pressed against said the one electrode on one end of the said probe and a curved outer face on one side of the width direction of the said probe and further having a first recess opening on said one side; and

an assembler for assembling said probes into said onto the base plate such that said probes are arranged at intervals in the thickness direction and that said tips are projected on the side opposite to said the base plate; and

wherein said assembler includes a cover having a second recess elongated in the arranging direction of said probes and opening on the side of said the base plate; falling-off preventing members disposed in said second recesses in a state of extending in the arranging direction of said probes and being fitted into said first recesses so as to prevent said probes from falling off said cover; and a needle presser extending in the arranging direction of said probes and disposed in said second recesses so as to make for making said outer faces of said probes contact said the conductive portions.

2. (original) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein said falling-off preventing members are received in said first recesses in a state of close fit.

3. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said probe further includes a third recess opening on the other side in said width direction and wherein at least a part of said needle presser is fitted into said third recess.

4. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1 any one of

claims 1 through 3, wherein said cover further has a plurality of slots communicating to said second recesses and opening on the side of said the base plate and on the side opposite thereto and arranged at intervals in the arranging direction of said probes; wherein said probes extend within said slots to project said tips from said slots toward the side opposite to said the base plate.

5. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 4, wherein said cover has fourth recess opening toward the side opposite to said the base plate ~~so as to receive for receiving~~ said device under test and communicating to said slots, said probes projecting their tips into said fourth recesses.

6. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1 any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein said cover further has a fifth recess communicating to a longitudinal end portion of said second recess, and wherein said falling-off preventing member is fitted into said fifth recess at a longitudinal end portion thereof.

7. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1 any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein said probes are pressed against said conductive portion by said needle presser.

8. (currently amended) An electrical connecting apparatus claimed in claim 1 any one of claims 1 through 7, wherein said probes have the other end side brought into contact with a face forming said second recesses.